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		Filing Date	12/14/2001
		First Named Inventor	CARLTON MANN
		Group Art Unit	1762
		Examiner Name	FARKER, F.J.
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Carlton Mann

Art Unit 1762

' Serial Number:

10/017,545

Parker, Frederick John

Filing Date:

12/14/2001

For:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLEANING

ELECTROSTATIC PAINT HOOKS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir;

Prior to examination, please amend the above referenced Application per the attached amendments to the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Bryan, (Jr.)

Registration No, 33,320

P.O. Box 1987

Phone: (972) 442-7124

Plano, TX 75086

FAX (972) 442-1022

May(6, 2003)

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In re Application of: Carlton Mann

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Serial Number:

10/017,545

Parker, Frederick John

Filing Date:

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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLEANING ELECTROSTATIC

PAINT HOOKS

RESPONSE UNDER 35 USC 121

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231 May 6, 2003 WED

Dear Sir;

In response to the Restriction Request dated April 7, 2003 31, please be advised that applicant provisionally elects the species of claims 1-15.

The requirement for election is respectfully traversed, inasmuch as the Examiners stated basis for restriction, "In this case the process can be carried out by another and materially different apparatus comprising C-clamps, or clamping means other than hooks to hold articles being conveyed past the sprayer, the clamps/etc coated with a thermally sacrificial tape coating that is burned off after coating is completed."

Applicant submits that the cited alternative is not equivalent to the process of the present invention. The suggested "sacrificial tape coating" would require manual application to each hook, a labor intensive step not included in the present invention and one which would render the cited process impractical and uneconomical. Also, the suggestion of frames as an alternative to hooks is contemplated in the specification (Page 1, lines 21 & 22)

Examiner's reconsideration of the restriction requirement is hence solicited.

Respectfully submitted;

John F. Bryan, (Jr.)

Registration No, 33,320

P.O. Box 1987

Plano, TX 75086